



PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT NO. 395
4 December 1974

LEGAL ADVISER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that Mr E. Lauterpacht, Q.C., of the University of Cambridge had accepted an appointment with the Australian Government to work as Legal Adviser to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Lauterpacht had been engaged by the Attorney-General and he would be seconded to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Prime Minister said that Mr Lauterpacht was a distinguished international lawyer. He had been closely associated with the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General as one of the Australian Government's counsel in the Nuclear Tests Case in the International Court of Justice.

The appointment would strengthen the legal services available to the Government in the field of public international law and would enable greater specialist attention to be given to this branch of the law which is assuming more and more importance for all countries, and not least for Australia.

Arrangements had been agreed upon regarding the matters in the field of public international law for which Mr Lauterpacht and the Department of Foreign Affairs would primarily be responsible and those that would continue to be primarily the responsibility of the Solicitor-General and the Attorney-General's Department.

Mr Lauterpacht's engagement is for a term of three years. He has been given leave of absence by the University of Cambridge for this period.

Mr Lauterpacht is 46 years of age. He is married. He has two children.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.